

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A check valve comprising:

an outer region;

a central region;

a cut winding from the outer region towards the central region; and wherein the check valve opens by extending the central region away from the outer region in the presence of flow along one direction and closes by retracting the central region towards the outer region in the presence of flow in the reverse direction.

Claim 2 (original): The check valve of claim 1 wherein the check valve opens by moving the central region towards a fan.

Claim 3 (original): The check valve of claim 1 wherein the check valve is on an intake side of a blower.

Claim 4 (original): The check valve of claim 1 wherein the check valve is on a blower.

Claim 5 (original): The check valve of claim 1 wherein the central region further includes a hole sliding on a shaft.

Claim 6 (original): The check valve of claim 5 wherein the shaft is fixedly attached to a grate.

Claim 7 (original): The check valve of claim 5 wherein the shaft includes a hard stop for arresting movement of the central region.

Claim 8 (original): The check valve of claim 1 wherein the check valve has a circular shape.

Claim 9 (original): A method of preventing reverse air flow through a fan, the method comprising:

expanding a check valve towards a center of a working blower to allow airflow through the check valve; and

when the fan fails, collapsing the check valve to limit airflow through the check valve.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein the check valve includes one or more cuts winding from an outer region towards a central region.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein expanding the check valve includes sliding a central portion of the check valve.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein closing the check valve includes retracting a central portion of the check valve.

Claim 13 (original): A check valve comprising:

means for expanding a check valve towards the center of a blower to allow airflow in one direction; and

means for collapsing the check valve to limit airflow in the reverse direction.

Claim 14 (original): The check valve of claim 13 further comprising:

means for controlling expansion of the check valve.

Claims 15-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (original): A cooling mechanism comprising:

a plurality of cooling components, each cooling component in the plurality of cooling components having a check valve that includes a cut winding from an outer region towards a central region; and

wherein the check valve in each cooling component opens by extending the central region away from the outer region in the presence of flow along one direction and closes by retracting the central region towards the outer region in the presence of flow in the reverse direction.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The cooling mechanism of claim 19 wherein the plurality of cooling components includes a blower.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The cooling mechanism of claim 19 wherein the plurality of cooling components includes an axial fan.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The check valve of claim 1, wherein the cut winding forms a plurality of gaps between the cut winding when the central region is extended away from the outer region, and wherein the central region is extended in the direction of the flow along the one direction.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The check valve of claim 1, wherein the cut winding closes a plurality of gaps between the cut winding when the central region is retracted towards the outer region, and wherein the central region is retracted in the direction of the flow in the reverse direction.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method ~~of~~ of preventing reverse air flow, the method comprising:

opening a check valve ~~opens~~ by extending a central region of the check valve away from an outer region of the check valve, in the presence of flow along one direction; and

closing the check valve by retracting the central region towards the outer region in the presence of flow in ~~the~~ a reverse direction.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24 wherein the check valve opens by moving the central region towards a fan.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 24 wherein the check valve is on an intake side of a blower.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 24 wherein the check valve is on a blower.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 24 wherein the central region further includes a hole sliding on a shaft.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the shaft is fixedly attached to a grate.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the shaft includes a hard stop for arresting movement of the central region.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 28 wherein the check valve has a circular shape.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the cut winding forms a plurality of gaps between the cut winding when the central region is extended away from the outer region, and wherein the central region is extended in the direction of the flow along the one direction.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the cut winding closes a plurality of gaps between the cut winding when the central region is retracted towards the outer region, and wherein the central region is

retracted in the direction of the flow in the reverse direction.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Various claims are being amended as shown above.

No new matter is being added by virtue of the amendment to the claims.

Claims 1-14 and 19-33 remain in this application.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (805) 681-5078.

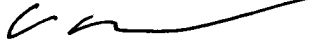
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Respectfully submitted,
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